



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250  
Tennessee Field Office • P.O. Box 41505 • Nashville, TN 37204-1505  
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)



Cooperating with Tennessee  
Department of Agriculture

Media Contact: Debra Kenerson, 1-800-626-0987  
[nass-tn@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-tn@nass.usda.gov)

### UNUSUAL WEATHER AFFECTS HAY, SOYBEANS, BUT SPARES COTTON AND CORN

NASHVILLE, October 12, 2005 – September weather was highlighted by brief, heavy storms in the middle and western portions of Tennessee, but the East continued predominately dry. The results of this unusual weather pattern produced no change in the cotton forecast, a slight decline in hay prospects, and a reduction in expected yields for soybeans. Corn, on the other hand, is expected to surpass earlier predictions as producers, with only a quarter of the crop left to be harvested, have a better handle on the crop. The October forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 130 bushels per acre, up 6 bushels from a month earlier, but 10 bushels below 2004; **Cotton**, 831 pounds per acre, down 69 pounds from 2004; **Soybeans**, 38 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from a year ago; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, down 20 pounds from last year; and **Hay**, excluding alfalfa, 2.50 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from a month earlier, but the same as last year's record.

### COTTON PRODUCTION TO SET A NEW STATE RECORD

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 1.10 million bales, unchanged from last month, and if realized, a new State record. Based on condition as of October 1, cotton yields are forecast at 831 pounds of lint per acre, unchanged from last month, but down 69 pounds from last year's record. Growers expect to harvest 635,000 acres, 110,000 more than 2004. Harvest conditions have been impacted due to the effects of the remnants of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many fields have bolls at the top which are knotty, and the clouds and rains brought by the storms sheltered the crop from sufficient sunlight. Despite all these problems, early yield results are unchanged from last month, but highly variable. As of October 2, defoliant applications had reached almost two-thirds of the State's acreage and, along with harvest, are at a pace slightly ahead of last year but behind the five-year average. The crop's condition continues to be rated mostly good-to-fair.

### SOYBEAN YIELD PROSPECTS DECLINE

The State's soybean production is forecast at 41.8 million bushels, down 14 percent from 2004. Production projections decreased due to acreage being lower than expected and a one bushel per acre decline in yield prospects. The 2005 soybean planted area is now estimated at 1.13 million acres, while acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.10 million acres, down 100,000 acres from last month's forecast. Soybean yields are expected to average 38 bushels per acre, down a bushel from last month, but still the third highest on record. September saw crop development continue at its rapid pace. Slightly less than 90 percent of the crop was dropping leaves through October 2, a full 16 days ahead of our five-year average pace. Soybean acreage harvested was at 30 percent, also 16 days ahead of the five-year average. Producers, who generally have waited until after corn harvest to begin harvesting beans, are faced with juggling both harvests at the same time. As of October 2, the crop was rated in mostly good-to-fair condition.

### HAY YIELDS AT RECORD LEVEL FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.63 million tons, down 3 percent from 2004. Harvested area is estimated at 1.85 million acres, 50,000 acres less than a year ago. Yields are expected to average 2.5 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from a month earlier, but the same as last year's record. Periodic dry spells during August and September, particularly in East Tennessee, caused a slight reduction in yield expectations. As of October 2, the State's pastures were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

(OVER)

## CORN YIELDS BETTER THAN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED

Corn production is forecast at 76.7 million bushels, up 10 percent from last month's forecast due to an increase in the estimated harvested acreage and projected yields. The State's corn yields are expected to average 130 bushels per acre, down 10 bushels from last year's record, but up 6 bushels from the September forecast. Tennessee's planted area for 2005 is now estimated at 650,000 acres, while acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 590,000 acres, both up 30,000 acres from last month's forecast. After the rains from the remnants of Hurricane Katrina, producers had to wait for the crop to dry down before harvest. This, coupled with an earlier than normal soybean harvest, has slowed harvest activities as producers are trying to get both done simultaneously. Through October 2, seventy-six percent of the crop had been harvested, behind last year and the five-year average.

## BURLEY PRODUCTION TO DECLINE BY A THIRD

Burley tobacco growers expect to produce 32.3 million pounds, unchanged from last month's forecast, but down 30 percent from the previous year. Tennessee's burley yields are forecast at 1,900 pounds per acre, also the same as last month. Farmers plan to harvest 17,000 acres for 2005, down 7,000 acres from a year ago. Dry weather during the month in East Tennessee lowered yield potential there, but prospects in other areas improved. As a result, overall average yield remained the same as September's forecast. As of October 2, slightly over 90 percent of the burley acreage had been harvested, in line with normal. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are forecast at 3,000 pounds, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,700 pounds per acre.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2005, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	11,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	615	590	140	130	86,100	76,700
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	525	635	900	831	984	1,100
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,900	1,850	2.50	2.50	4,750	4,625
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1.95	1.90
Soybeans	bu.	1,180	1,100	41.0	38.0	48,380	41,800
Tobacco, All	lb.	30.26	23.26	2,161	2,189	65,381	50,918
Dark fire-cured	lb.	5.72	5.72	3,115	3,000	17,816	17,160
Burley	lb.	24.0	17.0	1,920	1,900	46,080	32,300
Dark air-cured	lb.	.54	.54	2,750	2,700	1,485	1,458
Winter Wheat	bu.	280	170	49.0	60.0	13,720	10,200
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,419,900	9,379,100
Corn for grain	bu.	73,632	74,333	160.4	146.1	11,807,217	10,857,440
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	13,057	13,673	855	797	23,251	22,717
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.94	82,391	76,931
Peaches	ton	---	---	---	---	1,307.1	1,233.9
Soybeans	bu.	73,958	71,270	42.2	41.6	3,123,686	2,967,075
Tobacco, All	lb.	408.04	307.01	2,155	2,083	879,227	639,566
Dark fire-cured	lb.	11.73	12.47	3,167	3,184	37,151	39,708
Burley	lb.	153.15	105.30	1,908	1,826	292,172	192,285
Dark air-cured	lb.	4.26	4.04	2,799	2,787	11,922	11,258
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,462	33,680	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,493,769

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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